

MAY 15 1978

THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, INC.

455 FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016
TEL. (212) 481-0700

Office of the President and Director

May 10, 1978

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Genetics Department
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

We are writing to ask for your support in a matter that involves the survival of the Public Health Research Institute.

The PHRI has a contractual arrangement with the City of New York providing for its occupancy of space in the City owned Public Health Laboratory building, as well as a certain amount of financial support. Although this contract does not expire until 1981, its renewal is currently under negotiation, and a decision by the City is expected within a very short time.

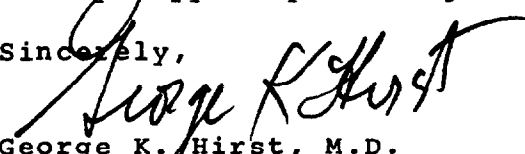
In view of the present financial situation in New York City, there is serious concern here that the City may not renew this contract. In the hope of encouraging renewal, the PHRI has informed the City that it will not only not ask for any financial support in the new contract but will also voluntarily waive the payments still due under the present one. Thus, the new contract would provide only laboratory space - space that is obviously vital to our existence. Nevertheless, we have been led to believe that the City may be reluctant to renew even under such terms.

At this point, therefore, it is our feeling that a strong statement of support by prominent members of the scientific community may help to convince the City that we are a valuable resource with respect to the scientific and intellectual climate of the City and one that would be well worth maintaining, especially at such a small cost.

We are asking you, if you agree with the above, to retype the enclosed letter and send one copy to Mayor Koch and return one to us. If you wish to modify the letter in any way, you are, of course, welcome to do so, or if you feel you would like to write a letter of your own, that would be even better. A recent annual report of the Institute's activities and a list of prominent former staff members are enclosed for your information.

We will, indeed, be grateful for any support you can give us.

Sincerely,


George K. Hirst, M.D.
President and Director

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